

# The Devil's Advocate

*Here at The Devil's Advocate we feel obligated to voice views that many people would consider to be in opposition to the majority opinion. We don't claim to be right all the time; Our purpose is just to make you think. We believe that there is a genuine UFO phenomenon, but we also feel that we must examine every side of the story, to keep ourselves open minded, objective, logical, and on our toes.*

Here we are with our one year anniversary issue. This one's a bit bigger than most, and we would like to think, our best issue yet. This time around we are pleased to present an article on the abduction researcher bias, by Martin wraps up the series on angel in-depth research. We also strive for change in MUFON. on the Gulf Breeze red light connection to military



We'd like to note that we So those of you unwilling to Postal service, please send all those comments, info, submissions, etc. to us at devilsad@amaranth.com

phenomenon and the effect of Kottmeyer. Brian Boldman hair, drawing conclusions from present a story regarding a And finally, we present our take UFOs and their possible psychological warfare projects.

In an attempt to produce a higher quality publication, we have changed the format we publish on. This has contributed to a slightly higher production cost. Rather than raise the subscription price, we have decided to offer subscriptions of four issues at the same \$10 price and plan to publish quarterly. We have changed the single issue price accordingly.

Before moving on with this issue, we would like to send notice to all our new readers; In this issue of DA, most of the articles argue for prosaic explanations of unusual phenomenon. We would like to state up front that we are not in the business of "debunking" anything in the traditional sense, but we will continue to follow the evidence in our search for truth regardless of whether or not we, or anyone else, like where it takes us.



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**ANGEL HAIR: Conclusions Drawn from In-depth Research**

by  
Brian Boldman

I have studied the angel hair phenomenon for several years now, and I would like to present evidence for a more prosaic explanation of this phenomenon than "alien visitors." Remember, the ultimate goal of DA is not to debunk, but rather present an objective, balanced, and hopefully scientific overview of ufology. I don't doubt for one minute that it is possible that other life forms have visited our planet from somewhere else. However, in the case of angel hair, I think we need to look no further than our own fauna: spiders.

Anyone familiar with angel hair will be aware of the spider web theory, as many prominent ufologist have already come to this same conclusion. Raymond Fowler wrote "...the majority of angel-hair cases coincide exactly with the optimum migration period of ballooning spiders...My evaluation of the Sudbury case was "probable spider web."<sup>i</sup> The Sudbury, Mass. case occurred on October 22, 1973, and has all the typical elements: a shiny globe discharges angel hair that dissolves with time. I feel that Mr. Fowler's conclusion is accurate, but as in other cases, the angel hair contained elements not found in spider web. Silicon and calcium seem to be prominent angel hair contaminants, and were also found in angel hair in Argentina and New York.

Angel hair has typically occurred during warm, clear, fall days that are perfect for the migration of ballooning spiders. My hypothesis is that angel hair UFO's are statically charged balls of spider web. I will present data in support of this. In 1954 in Reseda, California, a "huge silvery ball" was seen discharging angel hair. It was reported that it "seemed to 'jump' from a bush or tree and cling to one's hair."<sup>ii</sup> In a case reported in 1959 in Crawfordville, Georgia, angel hair was stuck to treetops and pointed toward the sky. This would seem to indicate a static charge.

I have collected about 100 angel hair cases from around the world dating from 679 to 1990. I am only aware of one documented case since 1977, except for a recent case in Tennessee which I have not been able to verify. I have been unable to obtain a sample, but I have obtained the results of an analysis of a fairly recent case investigated by Forest Crawford, that took place in Bernedotte, Illinois, in 1990. The angel hair was examined using FTIR, which is a reflective infrared scanning device. The material was polypeptide based, or protein consistent with spider webs. The Sudbury analysis was also consistent with spider web in that it was 95% organic.

Geographic distribution of angel hair cases is also indicative of spiders. There is no doubt that certain parts of the world make up the majority of angel hair sightings. North America and Europe have the most reported cases, followed by Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania. The data is no doubt skewed by the fact that reports are more readily available for the US and Europe, but even given substantial margins of error, the fact remains that there is a global distribution pattern. For instance, I have not been able to uncover even *one* case from the African continent. There have only been several from South America, in Argentina. There is no doubt the bulk of angel hair cases occur in temperate zones, while UFO's are reported globally.

In January of 1958, Flying Saucer Review ran an article by Peter Sharp titled 'Angel Hair'. This article contained much information. The following quotes are from this article: "If the places where the phenomenon was reported are examined by latitude it is found that all cases occur in a belt of latitude 20 degrees wide centered on 37 N or S." "In Autumn the black money spider can reach a density of 200 to the square yard and their activities covers the ground with a sheet of silk. When there is a rapid rise of ground temperature, convection currents evaporate the dew, tear and tangle the silk and carry pieces of it sometimes to great height. Such pieces of web carry no spiders." Here we have a possible explanation as to why angel hair has no spiders, as well as the warm, clear day connection. Some angel hair has been found to contain microscopic spiders, and some of this material with spiders was reported by Darwin on his ship in 1839.

It is interesting that from 1948 to 1958 that 47% of angel hair cases occurred during October, and if November is included this number balloons to 65%. The angel hair peak for this century is in October of 1954. This alone is highly indicative of spiders being the culprit. But I had a serious problem with the fact that spider webs do not disintegrate upon handling, the large amounts, as well as the chemical constituents that are not consistent with spider web.

#### ANGEL HAIR CASES FROM 1948 TO 1958

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1948									1			
1949											1	
1950										2		
1951							1					
1952										2		
1953				1	3					3	1	
1954		2				1			2	5	6	1
1955		1					1		1	4		
1956							1		1	2		
1957				1				1		4		
1958		1								2	2	
Total	0	4	0	2	3	1	2	1	5	27	10	1

But if the web material was discharged by millions of ballooning spiders, and acquired a static charge, it could pick up contaminants from the surrounding atmosphere. The probable answer for the disintegration was answered by Peter Sharp: "A chain of dust linked by electrostatic charges would slowly disintegrate as the charge leaked away and this process would be accelerated by handling."<sup>iii</sup> Angel hair is most prominent on clear, dry, fall days. Humidity allows the static charge to equalize, and this is why you don't get a shock when touching a doorknob in the summer. Warm air holds much more moisture than dry, fall air.

In order to verify the humidity hypothesis, I went to the National Data Climatic Center in Asheville, NC. One of the many problems I have encountered during this investigation came to light once again, that being the age of the data. Foreign daily data was almost unobtainable. I managed to get enough foreign weather maps to verify that many cases happened around high pressure zones, which indicate clear skies. The Local Climatic Data (LCD) sheets issued by the US Dept. of Commerce were of much more value, as these



record many parameters, such as hourly observations in locations where angel hair events took place.

Out of 17 cases in the United States for which I was able to obtain LCD's, 9 occurred during perfectly clear days, and 6 of these occurred during October, and 2 during November. Around 50% occurred during the peak months for spider migration. A large number of angel hair events during these perfectly clear days had extremely low relative humidity. For example the Jerome, Ohio, case (see DA# 3) occurred on October 22, 1954, after four days of no rain, and the humidity was 41%. There were no clouds. Only two days that month had lower humidity (39%).

The Whitsett case (see DA#4) occurred on October 27, 1955, again, a perfectly clear day. The lowest humidity of the month occurred on the 26th. The second lowest humidity occurred on the 10th, another clear day, along with a report of "silvery balls", just a few miles from Whitsett, in Greensboro. There was also an angel hair report on the 10th in Cincinnati, Ohio, and again, the sky was clear with the second lowest relative humidity for the month. The "silvery ball" report is a good example of several cases where the charged mass of web broke up in flight. "The objects in the sky looked very much like silvery colored steel balls about the size of a baseball... These were not flying saucers because all we watched disintegrated while we were watching."<sup>iv</sup> Compare this to a report from Paradise, California in 1950. "While the Paradise residents watched, one "saucer" disintegrated in mid-air, and particles floated towards the earth."<sup>v</sup> I have several other reports where the "UFO" disintegrated in mid-air, and the answer is that the static charge that held the web mass together simply dissipated.

One other aspect has become apparent. As mentioned above, there was a case on the 10th, in Greensboro, just a few miles from Whitsett, where UFO's and angel hair were reported 17 days later. This aspect was also apparent during the French sightings written about by Vallee and Michel. UFO's and angel hair were reported in Oloron, France, on October 17, 1952, and again in Gaillac, France, on the 27th. This happened again in 1954, with UFO's and angel hair reported in Tarn, France, on October 13, and again in Vienne, France, on the 18th. There have also been repeater cases in Italy, Japan, and New Zealand. While I can't explain the entomological reasons for this, it seems more reasonable to assume this is related to natural causes, and not UFO's returning to the same spots a few days later when the weather is clear.

The big question is why are UFO's reported if it is nothing but balls of spider web? As Kevin Randles' lecture at the recent MUFON symposium in Greensboro made clear, pop culture cannot be underestimated in its ability to influence UFO reports. I find it interesting that a recent wave of sightings in Middleton, Ohio, started on July 3, perfectly correlating to the opening of the movie Independence Day. To put angel hair into this perspective, UFO's had been brought to the public's attention by the media, and in particular, Life Magazine in 1952. The space age had begun, and I feel many UFO's reported during this era were a psychological knee-jerk reaction to unknown prosaic objects brought on by the hysteria of the time.

I know of only one case that could have been considered a UFO involving angel hair before 1948. This involved a luminous object sighted in Japan in 1477.<sup>vi</sup> This could have been

associated with earthquake lights, as an earthquake preceded an angel hair fall in Kyoto, Japan, in 1596. Anyone familiar with Persinger's work will see the correlation. In all, I have 20 cases that predate 1948, and only the 1477 case reports anything even remotely resembling a UFO. This is a far cry from the cases during the Blue Book years, where 43% of angel hair cases were associated with UFO's.

One question that remains is why are there no reports of angel hair today? One possible reason is that people are not as observant of nature as they once were. We have air conditioning, cable, video games, and the internet. We spend much less time outdoors than people did 30 or 40 years ago. Couple this with the modern perception of UFO sightings, like in the movies *Close Encounters* and *Communion*, and a little dissolving silvery ball in the sky pails in comparison. It is also possible that angel hair has not occurred with the intensity that it once did. This may be a cyclical phenomenon like cicadas, or perhaps there are other environmental reasons, such as global warming or pollution. I find it interesting that there were a rash of hurricanes during 1954 and 1955, the peak angel hair years.

So we have UFO's associated with angel hair that correlate with weather and geographical distribution patterns. This does not fit in with the over-all UFO phenomenon. I am satisfied with the spider web theory. But if we have people turning blobs of spider web into UFO's, what else might be a catalyst for the human imagination, and what might the mind imagine? It's time for the sociologist to step in. The real pay dirt in the angel hair phenomenon won't be an answer to the UFO enigma, but rather a deeper understanding of the human mind.

iCasebook of a UFO Investigator, Raymond Fowler, p.105.

iiValley Times, 2/15/54

iiiFlying Saucer Review, Angel Hair, Peter F. Sharp, Jan. 1958.

ivGreensboro Daily News, Letter to Public Pulse, 11/3/55.

vChino Enterprise-Record, date unknown.

vilce Falls and Angel Hair, Allan J. Manak, p. 43.

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**ABDUCTIONS AND RESEARCHER BIAS**  
**OR**  
**WHY DOES EVERY ABDUCTION RESEARCHER ALWAYS FIND HIS OWN**  
**FAVORITE BREED OF ALIEN?**

by  
Martin Kottmeyer

You have just surveyed a little over a dozen abduction investigators who have collectively handled over 1700 cases. You learn 4 of them say they have a generally favorable attitude about the nature of abduction experiences; 3 of them say such experiences are generally negative. You say to yourself this is a nice opportunity to test whether or not there is an investigator effect shaping the experiences of those they work with. You meticulously compile and collate the survey data. Finally you get the following results:

Abductees with positive-attitude investigators more often feel positive about their abduction experiences. Their reactions to the entities are more often positive. The entities are perceived more often as warm and cordial. More often one of the entities seems familiar or caring. The abductees more often see themselves as partners in the experience. They more often may even identify themselves as alien. On the downside they more often have vague anxieties after their experiences.

Abductees with negative-attitude investigators, on the other had, more often feel negative about their experiences. They hate and dislike the beings more often. The beings themselves are more often perceived as cold and business-like. The abductees see themselves more often as victims.

Do you conclude A) Clearly it makes a difference which investigator an abductee goes to and it would be prudent to recommend that anyone wanting to explore an abduction experience seek a positively-opinionated investigator; or B) Despite many claims and fears to the contrary, the investigators' hand proves almost invisible, its touch nearly negligible in formulating the abduction.

Though you have now resolved the pragmatic issue to everyone's satisfaction, your work is not yet done. You also want to know if these attitudes influence the imagery and plot of abduction stories. You look down the data columns and what you read goes something like this:

Positive attitude investigators have a lower percentage of humanoids and standard Grays and a higher percentage of human-like Nordics in their files. Their cases are less likely to involve missing time and the experiences are shorter in duration. Unexpectedly, examination experiences are more common, but they are less likely to involve implants, manual handling, and the genitals. The aliens less often give threats or orders to forget. More often they give tours of the ship and school the abductee. Like the Space Brothers of the contactees they warn about future catastrophes and cataclysms more often. Their abductees are more likely to show increased psychic abilities. There are some puzzles. Their abductions more often involve paralysis. The crafts are more often disc-like. The interiors are more often cool and indirectly lit.

Negative attitude investigators, in contrast, have higher percentages of humanoids, and standard Grays. Curiously, the trait of vestigial noses is more common. The examinations more often involve implants, manual handling, and the genitals are less likely to involve sample-taking. In line with the Hopkins scenario, there are more scenes involving nurseries and hybrids. Their abductees are less likely to be given tours of the ship. They are more often threatened and ordered to forget. There are fewer warnings about future catastrophes. They more often have body scars and marks. There is less about increased psychic abilities or changes in habits following the experiences. There are also some puzzles. There are more otherworldly journeys. There are more messages of reassurance. There is less anxiety during their capture, less

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paralysis. Their experiences are longer. The crafts are less likely to be disc-shaped. The rooms are more likely to be rectangular or wedge-shaped and less often indirectly lit. Finally, their abductees are less likely to suffer nausea or diarrhea after an experience.

Do you conclude A) The results make more sense than not. Those details that don't make sense seem less central to the drama of the story and might be resolvable by further study; or B) The meaning of any relationship between attitude and description escapes ready comprehension.

You have likely already guessed that this study is not hypothetical. It was part of a much larger study conducted by Thomas E. Bullard and recently published by the Fund for UFO Research under the title The Sympathetic Ear: Investigators as Variables in UFO Abduction Reports. The results reported here are my reading of data columns P and N of his Table 37. If you picked A for your conclusions, your assessment matches mine. If you picked B, you conclusions match the author of the study. They are quotes respectively from the summary after the title page and from page 89. I singled out that part of the study, most of which is excellent by the way, as the most relevant test of Philip Klass's observation that Leo Sprinkle's abductees report kinder, gentler aliens than Budd Hopkins. He felt it was not coincidence that the personal beliefs of the investigators seemed to color the experiences of their subjects. While Bullard cites Klass's opinion as what is under test, he seems to forget the specifics of what Klass says as the argument goes along and ends up fighting against some exaggerated position that no skeptic I know of ever advanced. Bullard's data replicates what Klass says and the central pragmatic issue of whether it is advisable to point abductees to positively-minded investigators is demonstrated as prudently correct.

Why does Bullard offer the conclusions in the B quotes? It appears to be that he regards the puzzles in the data as so paramount that they vitiate any claim for a real investigator effect. Some details are completely unaffected by the attitude of the investigator. Though fair enough as a question of what is involved in a full portrait of the abduction phenomenon, the fact remains that the data does not contradict the specific claims that have been made by the critics he cites.

**Subscription rates to The Devil's Advocate** are as follows: 4 issues (approx. 1 year) are \$10 (\$20 foreign). Single issues are \$2.50. D.A. is published quarterly. **Please make checks or money orders payable to Tim Brigham.**

It would be interesting to know how many readers of this study accept Bullard's conclusion without looking at the table of results. The main reason I bothered to double-check things was because the two lines I quoted seemed too unlikely. One can't read the UFO abduction literature without seeing the hand of the investigator is all too visible. Some examples:

# Christie totally accepts the idea of Space Brothers and has participated in workshops where she chats with beautiful space beings. She attends a meeting between her boyfriend and Budd Hopkins and is eventually regressed, yielding an experience involving needles in her nose and vagina. Hopkins concludes that her change of mind proves the Space Brothers are a myth and that abductions are traumatically real (Int'l UFO Reporter, Jan/Feb. 1987);

# John Mack repeatedly asks abductees why hybrids, if they are to repopulate a post-holocaust earth, seem so listless and wan. Next we learn Jerry has an abduction where the



hybrid is seen as beautiful, angelic, young adults. Peter proclaims they do not appear listless to him, but have a vitality all their own. (Abduction, p. 415);

# David Jacobs finds aliens that are totally non-human and avers that contactee claims are a convenient touchstone for deciding which reports are probably bogus. (Secret Life, pp. 236, 284.) Richard Boylan's subjects gets a variety suggestive of at least a dozen races and they often share human characteristics like a reverence for life and the importance of caring for children. A chapter devoted to messages from these experiences is filled with material identical to that of the contactees of the Fifties right down to an advocacy of vegetarianism. (Close Extraterrestrial Encounters, chapter 14, 15.)

Each would doubtless insist their methods are superior, their results more believable, than the prior views. Doubtless, too, their subjects agree. Somebody's wrong here. I would not be shocked if everybody's wrong here. Since ufologists are to some extent getting what they believe, be careful which views you side with. I wonder if we could convince Camille Paglia to take up ufology. I'd love to see what sort of aliens she'd find.

### **UNUSUAL TRANSMISSIONS** (Formerly known simply as "Letters")

This time around, Remy Chevalier writes in and does a good job of summarizing some of the basic questions which we explore, and hope to continue to explore, in DA.

"...how can we even differentiate anymore between fact and fantasy? Isn't it fair to say there is a different set of reality parameters for every living creature on earth, and that our common experience is only a consensus? People get struck-down paralyzed staring-into the void with googoo eyes at Virgin Marys only they can see! Yet the experience to them is as real as can be, and the external perks include healings, levitations, bleedings.... Are other slices of our universe trying to manifest on our plane of existence, limited only by the extent of our sensory machinery?"

### **MUFON AND THE GREAT DEBATE**

[The following open letter was mailed to Walt Andrus and other higher ups in the MUFON organization. The Devil's Advocate has pledged our support to NUFON and the other originators of this letter because we hope to provoke change in the way which MUFON operates. Though many of the concerns listed here are managerial ones, and we have no status in MUFON whatsoever besides the inevitable J.S. (journal subscriber), our main concern with the organization, and what we feel to be the largest problem, is the lack of access to the MUFON database by the very members who did the hard work to compile this database. We feel that the data compiled by MUFON members can and should be put to good use by researchers and investigators. We hope that MUFON members and leaders will realize that changes are needed to make MUFON an effective organization, and we hope that we will stir others to action in regards to this matter. We also hope that the originators of this letter will receive much needed support. We will continue to follow this story until some resolution is reached.]



*An Open Letter to MUFON*

Please accept this letter and subsequent comments from *NATIONAL UFO NEWS* in the positive nature in which it is intended. The purpose of this letter is to suggest changes to MUFON's administrative and/or managerial policies. This letter reflects concerns from many people.

This letter has been mailed in advance to our International Director, Walter H. Andrus, Jr., MUFON Executive Committee, State and Regional Directors. We are hopeful that aforementioned leaders, including the Board of Directors, will seriously re-evaluate MUFON's administrative and/or managerial policy's.

For clarity reasons this letter has been condensed and numerically prioritized since mailed to MUFON leadership. It should be clearly understood by all who read this letter that no attempt is being made toward:

- A. Undermining MUFON or finger-pointing at our International Director. Quite the contrary, Mr. Andrus is to be highly commended for his outstanding leadership.
- B. Insubordination with negative statements.
- C. Tearing apart the organization.
- D. Turning people off.

We sincerely hope that a continuous and positive dialog will result after this letter has been brought in to the sunshine. It is also our sincere hope that many of you will react positively by freely giving of your time and expertise realizing that all effective volunteer organizations must have minimum management standards. Our concerns are as follows in order of priority.

1. Establishing a Policy & Procedures Manual, including a chain-of-command flow chart. This manual should have detailed job descriptions for all leaders with annual evaluations of same.
2. Provide by-law copies and executive committee members names and addresses to State Directors.
3. Address potential law suits against state leaders including Field investigators. Legal counsel should advise as to minimizing risk. Origination and standardization of MUFON legal forms could be a starting point.
4. Standardization of management forms utilized by Deputy Director of investigations, Regional Directors, State Directors and State Section Directors.
5. Require State Directors, with assistance of Consultants and Research Specialists, to conduct annual workshop meetings for State Section Directors and their subordinates.
6. Develop a standardized and formatted State Director's annual report and require same to be submitted 30 days in advance (of annual symposium) to respective Regional Director.
7. Distribute State Director's annual meeting agenda to each SD fifteen (15) days in advance of symposium.
8. Establish an ethics and grievance committee outside of executive committee.
9. Delete all MUFON Journal advertisers.
10. Establish long-range planning committee.

11. Disallow MUFON members from receiving a state charter utilizing MUFON's acronym as part of said charter. Reasons and examples of these are as follows:  
Upon applying for a charter, a list of officers must be submitted to the state for approval, upon state approval of said charter the person listed as "President" becomes recognized by the state as a legal executive officer of said group; thus, preventing MUFON International or State Directors from exercising any managerial decisions over that State Section Director. Additionally, MUFON International has absolutely no control over the use of its name. Effectively, the section becomes an entity of its own, thereby, rendering MUFON totally impotent. (This scenario occurred several years ago when a section; Incorporated after making a considerable amount of money from a MUFON-sponsored symposium. MUFON should issue a directive preventing a similar occurrence.)
12. No response or review from Regional and Deputy Directors to State Directors regarding cases submitted. No quarterly summary's of submitted cases from Regional Director being forwarded to State Directors.
13. Establish a media committee to act as a "Clearing-House." Committee responsibilities would include review of all symposium speakers and news releases by MUFON International, State and Local organizations.  
This responsibility would include establishing direct communication with each State Director, thus setting the guidelines or standards for said news and or symposium material. Thus establishing that all information coming forth from MUFON and its members are in compliance with MUFON's stated objectives.
14. Address membership "drop out" problems and POSSIBLE solutions for minimizing same.
15. Place major emphasis on recruiting a larger membership dedicated to exploring solid answers of MUFON's four objectives; establish a realistic plan to obtain 10,000 members within a pre-determined time period.
16. Develop a video recruiting film designed to attract talented people in pursuit of our objectives;
  - A. Brief history of MUFON.
  - B. Explain management flow chart.
  - C. Pictures of international office and daily routine.
  - D. Overview of formal case submission and final review at office of Deputy Director.
  - E. Overview of how Consultants and Research Specialists participate in our investigations.
  - F. Overview of how State and State Section Directors are organized for maximum effectiveness in their investigative capabilities.
  - G. Overview of our annual symposium.
  - H. Provide information on how we cooperate with foreign countries.
17. Eliminate MUFON symposium vendors who are outside of MUFON's four stated objectives.
18. Form a committee to research and establish a data base of all past cases and events which were investigated by MUFON, making this information accessible to ALL MUFON investigators. One suggestion would be on MUFON's

Web Page, limiting access only to qualified investigators.

NUFON Editor and Florida Assistant State MUFON Director Bland Pugh can be reached at (904) 932-9406. State Director Charles Flannigan can be reached at (904) 478-0465. They encourage any feedback on this matter.

### **Devil's Advocate Roundtable**

In order to make D.A. a networking tool we are now offering classified ads, cheaper than ever at only \$2 for researchers or individuals looking for correspondence, information, etc., and \$5 for all others (payable to Tim Brigham) for up to 35 words. \$1 for each additional 10 words. We will accept trades of ads with other publications at our discretion. Persons advertising products or publications, please send a sample along with the \$5 payment. Display ads are \$15 for 1/8 page and \$25 for 1/4 page.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/INFO NEEDED**

D.A. is looking for information on possible military attempts to hoax UFO sightings, and military use of, or experimentation with psychological warfare. All names will be held confidential if requested. Respond to D.A. directly. Thanks.

#### **PUBLICATIONS, EVENTS, PRODUCTS, ETC.**

Alternate Perceptions: Journal of UFOs, history, native spirituality, and paranormal phenomena. Edited by Brent Raynes and Dr. Greg Little. Published quarterly. \$12 for a one year subscription. Write: Alternate Perceptions, Box 9972, Memphis, TN 38190.

The 33rd annual National UFO Conference. Oct. 5th and 6th in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. With Stanton Friedman, Budd Hopkins, Karl Pflock, Kevin Randle, James Moseley, Jerome Clark, Wendelle Stevens, Randolph Winters, Brad and Sherry Steiger, Colin Andrews, G. Cope Schellhorn, and others. Info: (608) 537-2383. Box 55185, Madison WI 53705.

## **FALSE MIRACLES IN THE SKY, part 2: The Gulf Breeze Red Light UFO Wave**

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Tim Brigham and Brian Boldman

In the last issue of The Devil's Advocate we examined some possible reasons the military may wish to hoax UFO sightings. We also examined some possible methods which they might use in such cases. In this article we will examine a UFO case in which some of the evidence seems to suggest that what actually occurred was a hoax perpetrated by the US military: The Gulf Breeze red light UFO wave.

As anyone with even a passing interest in UFOs knows, the Gulf Breeze red lights began appearing shortly after a named Ed Walters went public with a series of UFO photographs. These photographs continue to be a hot topic of debate to this day among UFO researchers. The red light soon became the target of media cameras all over the world. On some occasions, members of the media were actually successful in their attempts to

photograph the red light. The light was sighted on hundreds of occasions by citizens turned skywatchers, as well as by citizens who had no interest at all in UFOs. There could be no debate, the red light was real. To many, the authenticity of the Walter's photos had been verified by the existence of the red light. But the question few paused to contemplate in their rush to verify their own personal belief in UFOs had still not been examined thoroughly and logically: "Is the famous red light the same object that appears in the Walter's photographs?"

The one fact which many believers in the extraterrestrial or unknown nature of the Gulf Breeze red light will often boast of, is the sheer number of sightings of the mysterious object. If we take an estimate of approximately three sightings of the red light each week during the peak time period of red light activity (and this number would be considered a fair estimate by most Gulf Breeze supporters) and perform a little simple math, we come up with an extremely high number of sighting each year. But we must also consider that the local Gulf Breeze skywatchers were not watching for UFOs 24 hours a day. The hours between seven and ten o'clock each night are when most of the skywatchers were looking for the object. If we assume that the light was not appearing for the purpose of being seen (and we will later look at why this is improbable) we should assume that the object actually appeared approximately 23.5 times on the average each week! This is equal to 1,222 appearances of the Gulf Breeze red light each year! This high number should ring an alarm with UFO researchers. It seems likely that someone or something was intentionally causing the sightings during hours when it would be more likely for the lights to be seen.

Should we assume that the red lights were going about their business over the skies of Gulf Breeze, caring not about making a display for the public? If so, they had an awful lot of things to do over Gulf Breeze- things which would take over 1,200 visits a year to accomplish! And if the UFOs were truly attempting to reveal their presence to the world using Gulf Breeze as a gateway, as many will counter, then why didn't the lights perform an



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amazing aerial maneuver once in a while? Why didn't they at least move at a speed comparable to that of a commercial aircraft rather than slowly floating and bobbing through the night sky? There is not one case of the many which were videotaped in which the light did anything which could not have been hoaxed by conventional means. In short, if the lights were UFOs attempting to impress the world or send a notification of their reality to the public, their technology fell very, very short in doing so. It seems that the most logical scenario is that someone had an interest which would be served by having large groups of people witness aerial phenomenon of unknown origin.

Who would have an interest in causing the citizens of Gulf Breeze to believe they were seeing UFOs? Many would first point the finger at Ed Walters. After all, the more sightings of UFOs in the Gulf Breeze area, the greater his credibility in the eyes of many. But would it be possible for Walters to have hoaxed so many sightings? The red lights were seen about three times a week for several years. In order to carry out a hoax of such magnitude, Walters would have needed help, a great deal of resources, and a heap of money to boot. We are now looking into the specifics of how much money such a hoax would take, for a possible article to be printed in DA at a later date. But if Walters was not the one responsible for hoaxing the sightings, we must look for others who would have interest in doing so.

The Northwest Florida area has a strong military presence. Pensacola Naval Air Station, Eglin Air Force Base, and Hurlburt field are all located very near Gulf Breeze. Eglin AFB is known for its role in the testing of high tech weaponry. Rumor in the area even has it that the infamous "Aurora" has been seen in the skies near Eglin. Hurlburt Field is perhaps the most interesting of the local military bases. Hurlburt Field plays what is perhaps the most important role in the Air Force's psychological and unconventional warfare. Anyone wishing to verify this can do so fairly easily. Hurlburt even boasts of this fact on their web page on the internet. The following quotes were taken from that web page.

"The 16th SOW, at Hurlburt Field, is the oldest and most seasoned unit in AFSOC [Air Force Special Operations Command]."

*"Air Force Special Operations Command*

Air Force Special Operations Command, with headquarters at Hurlburt Field, Fla., was established May 22, 1990. AFSOC is a major command and the Air Force component of U.S. Special Operations Command, a unified command.

Mission: AFSOC is America's specialized air power. It is a step ahead in a changing world, delivering special operations combat power anytime, anywhere. The command is committed to continual improvement to provide Air Force special operations forces for worldwide deployment and assignment to regional unified commands to conduct:

\* Unconventional warfare\* Direct action\* Special reconnaissance\* Counterterrorism\* Foreign Internal Defense\* Humanitarian assistance\* Psychological operations \* Personnel recovery\* Counternarcotics"

*"16th Special Operations Wing*

The 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla., is one of three Air Force special

operations flying organizations. Mission: The wing's mission is to organize, train and equip Air Force special operations forces for global employment. The 16th SOW focuses on unconventional warfare, including counterinsurgency and psychological operations during low-intensity conflicts."

Given Hurlburt's important role in the psychological and unconventional warfare fields, if the military was interested in testing the effects of a massive wave of UFO sightings, few places would prove a better testing ground than Gulf Breeze, Florida.

The view that the red lights may be the product of a military origin is one which is shared by other respected researchers as well. Writing in Grand Illusions (pg. 43), Dr. Greg Little states, "...what is going on there would certainly make a great research project to study mass psychology. It would present ideal conditions to study the effects of various aircraft and stealth technology on observers- their reactions and observations." And in Dr. Jacques Vallee's "fictional" Fastwalker (pg. 146), one of the mysterious military men, commenting on the CIA's exploitation of UFO belief states, "They already have exploited it. Look at all the fun they have in Gulf Breeze, planting their little stories. They're extending the precepts of the Pentacle Memorandum, taking the work of Battelle to its logical conclusions, using the saucers to gain inspiration for their non-lethal platforms."

In the next issue, as we continue to detail our investigation into the red light/military connection. We will look more closely at the Gulf Breeze community and examine other reasons it would be the perfect place to perform such an operation. We will also examine the hard data, which will lead us closer to finding out who is really responsible for the Gulf Breeze red light UFOs, and how they performed their false miracles in the sky.

### THE DEVIL'S BOOKSHELF

This time around the only item for review is a very interesting publication called Millennial Prophecy Report. Ted Daniels does an excellent job of publishing this slick newsletter, which examines cults and end times groups. At times even UFO and new age cults are featured. This publication does an excellent job of thoroughly examining this fascinating subject, and it does so without bias. This is the most professional publication of its type we have seen. Highly recommended for anyone who wants to keep track of this very interesting subject. A version is also now available on the internet at a much lower cost than the printed version. Box 34021, Philadelphia, PA 19101-4021. Email: [mpred@usa.pipeline.com](mailto:mpred@usa.pipeline.com)

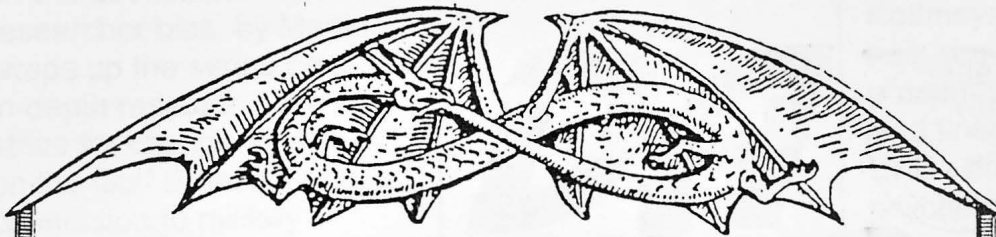
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Keep in touch.

Devil's Advocate

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Another unsubstantiated photograph of the Loch Ness monster (taken by Reuben Hicks, 5/24/84, Chicago).

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